

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2020-275-S

Application of Condor Environmental,
Incorporated Requesting an Expansion of Its
Existing Sewer Service Area to Include
Certain Portions of Anderson County and
Approval of Agreement (Expedited
Consideration Requested)

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF BRAD WEAVER

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 **A. Brad Weaver, 2089 Locust Hill Rd., Greer, SC 29651**

3 **Q. What is your occupation?**

4 **A. I am the Vice-President of Condor Environmental, Inc. ("Condor")**

5 **Q. Please tell the Commission about Condor.**

6 **A. Condor is a Class B Wastewater utility. Its gross revenues from regulated utility operations**
7 **in 2020 were \$320,269. Condor is a small company established by my father, Samuel Weaver in**
8 **1994. Sam and Eugene C. McCall, Jr. were briefly partners under Condor Environmental, LLC.**
9 **In 2012, my father became the sole owner. My brother and I took ownership and the operation of**
10 **the company last year. The company operates and maintains twelve sewer collection stations, three**
11 **gravity sewer lines, and two on-site sewer septic systems. Condor does not provide sewerage**
12 **treatment service. Condor also has unregulated activities such as maintaining and operating sewer**
13 **collection systems for the South Carolina rest areas and utility right-of-way mowing in the State**
14 **of South Carolina.**

1 **Q. Who are Condor's customers?**

2 Condor's residential customers are real estate developers or homeowners' associations,
3 instead of the occupants of individual residences as is the case with most other utilities. Condor
4 bills each subdivision's developer or homeowners' association at a subdivision-wide rate. We also
5 serve three commercial parks.

6 **Q. Who manages Condor?**

7 A. My brother, Jason, and I have both worked for Condor for over 20 years. Upon my father's
8 retirement in 2020, we became the sole shareholders of Condor. Jason became President of the
9 Company, and I became Vice-President.

10 **Q. What is your educational and professional background?**

11 A. I have a Bachelor of Science in business management and marketing from the University of
12 South Carolina, Spartanburg, and I have completed the Harvard Business School's management
13 training curriculum. I have worked for Condor since I graduated from college in 1993.

14 **Q. What is Jason's educational and professional background.**

15 A. Jason worked with the Spartanburg County Public Works Department, where he was the
16 Manager of Environmental Services and Solid Waste before starting as a Field Service Manager
17 for Condor in 2012. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina,
18 Spartanburg.

19 **Q. Has Condor ever been cited by DHEC for violating its regulations?**

20 A. No.

21 **Q. Have any customer complaints about Condor been brought to the ORS or the**
22 **Commission?**

23 A. I am not aware of any.

1 **Q. What is the purpose of Condor's application in this docket?**

2 A. Condor is asking for approval to serve the Carriage Hill subdivision in Anderson County.

3 **Q. Please describe the Carriage Hill subdivision.**

4 A. Carriage Hill is a new residential subdivision in northeast Anderson County, south of
5 Easley. The subdivision was initially called Carriage Place, but the name changed since its
6 inception. Thirty homes are planned in the first phase of Carriage Hill.

7 **Q. Is Condor currently serving Carriage Hill?**

8 A. Yes. The Commission allowed Condor to serve Carriage Hill while this application is
9 pending.

10 **Q. What kind of service is Condor providing in Carriage Hill?**

11 A. Condor is maintaining the gravity sewer lines for the subdivision.

12 **Q. Has Condor encountered any problems serving Carriage Hill?**

13 A. No, we have not.

14 **Q. Who provides sewerage treatment for Carriage Hill?**

15 A. Sewerage treatment service is provided by Easley Combined Utilities ("ECU").

16 **Q. What type of utility is ECU?**

17 A. ECU is owned by the City of Easley and operated by its Commission of Public Works.

18 **Q. How many homes are being served?**

19 A. Condor now serves 29 homes.

20 **Q. Who is Condor's customer in Carriage Hill?**

21 A. Condor's customer is the developer, Joe Francis, and the Carriage Place Homeowner's
22 Association, Inc. ("the HOA"), jointly. When the subdivision is complete, the developer will

1 transfer responsibility for the sewer service and other shared amenities to the HOA. This is a
2 customary practice between developers and homeowners' associations.

3 **Q. How is Condor's bill calculated?**

4 A. Condor charges the developer \$12.00 per month, per home, to maintain the sewer system,
5 and passes through ECU's treatment charge of \$25.52 without markup.

6 **Q. How did Condor arrive at its monthly rate?**

7 A. In Order 2016-74 (Docket No. 2015-24-S), the Commission approved this rate for Condor's
8 service to the Caledonia Subdivision in Anderson County. The service rendered there is virtually
9 the same.

10 **Q. Did Condor initially agree to a different rate with the developer?**

11 A. Yes, when Condor agreed to serve Carriage Hill for \$14.98 per month, with ECU's
12 treatment charge of \$25.52.

13 **Q. Why is Condor applying for a different rate than originally agreed to with the**
14 **developer?**

15 A. After discussions with the ORS, it was clear the agency wanted Condor to reestablish its
16 rates and charges in a general rate case. So, we applied to provide service under the already
17 established rate.

18 **Q. Is Condor requesting a pass-through mechanism for ECU's charges?**

19 A. Yes. Condor is asking for permission to pass through any increases in ECU's treatment
20 charges without markup after giving notice and supporting documentation to the customer, the
21 ORS, and the Commission.

22 **Q. Does ECU provide treatment services in any other subdivisions served by Condor?**

23 A. Yes, to the Rose Hill and Caledonia subdivisions.

1 **Q. Did Condor give notice of its application to serve Carriage Hill to any other utilities?**

2 **A.** Not when we filed. We were not aware of any other utilities serving the Carriage Hill area.
3 ECU, a designated management agency under the Appalachian Council of Governments' (ACOG)
4 Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan, agreed to provide treatment service, so we did not
5 believe there was anyone else to notify. However, since Condor learned of ReWA's interest in the
6 application, we have kept it informed of the status of these proceedings, and we will work in good
7 faith to address its concerns.

8 **Q. Does ReWa have a collection line available to serve Carriage Hill?**

9 **A.** No, not at this time.

10 **Q. Do you know when ReWa will have a collection line to serve Carriage Hill?**

11 **A.** No.

12 **Q. What is the Wastewater Treatment Plant ("WWTP") nearest Carriage Hill?**

13 **A.** ECU's Middle Branch WWTP is about a half mile from the nearest portion of Carriage
14 Hill.

15 **Q. How far away is the ReWa's closest WWTP from Carriage Hill?**

16 **A.** The Georges Creek WWTP is about five and a half miles from Carriage Hill.

17 **Q. In paragraph 3 of ReWa's petition to intervene, it states that "ReWa is willing to**
18 **either operate that system [Carriage Hill] itself or to operate it under contract with**
19 **Condor." Has ReWa offered Condor a contract to operate the system?**

20 **A.** No.

21 **Q. Have you reviewed the ORS's Status Report and Recommendations filed on March**
22 **8, 2021?**

23 **A.** Yes.

1 **Q. Does Condor agree to the ORS's recommendations?**

2 A. Yes. We filed a letter with the Commission on March 17, 2021, stating our agreement with
3 the recommendations. On April 8, 2021, ORS informed the Commission it does not object to
4 Condor's application to serve Carriage Hill.

5 **Q. The ORS identified some compliance issues in its report, how do you respond?**

6 A. Condor takes full responsibility for any failures to comply with the Commission's
7 regulations. Our violations were not intentional, and we are trying to make sure they do not happen
8 again. The ORS conducted a thorough review of Condor's operations. The company is under new
9 management; it has hired new regulatory counsel and Gary Wash, an experienced regulatory
10 accountant. We revised our 2019 Annual Report and are keeping our books according to the
11 Commission's regulations.

12 **Q. ORS identified some billing discrepancies in its review can you respond?**

13 A. ORS reported that Condor increased the fee for its collection service in the Caledonia and
14 Rose Hill subdivision without Commission approval and implemented pass-through increases
15 without the required notice to the Commission. Condor has proposed to refund any over charges
16 of its fees and request the approval for pass-through charges implemented without the necessary
17 notice or approval from the Commission.

18 **Q. What is your plan for Condor's future?**

19 A. Condor wants to grow by continuing to offer quality service. We also recognize the need
20 to improve our regulatory compliance. I believe we have made significant progress, but I also
21 recognize more needs to be done.

22